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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-second session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2132nd meeting**
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 3 June 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Mezmur

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Closure of the session

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.
** No summary records were issued for the 2126th to 2131st meetings.

This record is subject to correction.

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Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5.10 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **The Chair** said that as of 3 June 2016, there were 196 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As of the same the date, 165 States parties had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, two more — namely Brunei Darussalam and Samoa — than at the beginning of the session. The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had been ratified or acceded to by 173 States parties. Twenty-seven States parties had ratified the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

2. During the session, the Committee had considered 10 reports from eight countries: seven under the Convention (Bulgaria, Gabon, Nepal, Pakistan, Samoa, Slovakia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); one under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Nepal); and two under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Gabon and Luxembourg). He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the concluding observations that had been drawn up for those States parties.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. The Committee had also reviewed the information that it had received under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure and adopted the San José Guidelines. In the context of the outcome of the treaty body strengthening process, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/268, the Committee had held a retreat to study ways of ensuring that its concluding observations were focused, clear and applicable.

5. Earlier in the afternoon, the Committee had adopted its general comment on public spending and the rights of the child. Work had continued on the draft general comments on adolescents, on children in street situations and on children in the context of migration. The latter general comment was being developed jointly with the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Preparations for the Committee's next day of general discussion, on children's rights and the environment, had also continued.

6. The Committee had met with the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The programme of work for the seventy-third session would be made available to the public in the coming weeks.

7. **Ms. Sandberg** (Rapporteur), noting that the Committee had met in plenary during the session, as its members preferred, said that the Committee had had a busy session. It had discussed the concluding observations extensively, held a weekend retreat and organized briefings and retreats with a number of partners.

8. The Committee had continued to prepare for its next day of general discussion. To that end, a working group that she herself chaired had met once with representatives of Terre des Hommes International Federation, the United Nations Children's Fund, Child Rights Connect and a consultant, who had been hired to assist with the final preparations.

9. The working group on the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure had met twice during the session, once with the Petitions Unit. One case involving an individual complaint had been submitted to the State party in question for its comments. In two other cases, the complainants had been asked for additional information, which had not yet been received.

10. The general comment on public spending had been discussed at several meetings during the session before having been adopted earlier that afternoon. The current draft of

the general comment on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence had been posted on the Committee's website for a final round of public consultations. Work on the general comment on children in street situations had involved regional consultations in the intersession and two meetings of the relevant working group during the session. A third draft would be ready shortly. Work on the joint general comment on children in migration was in its early stages. The resources necessary for taking the work forward were being sought. The working group on accountability had had a meeting with partners to discuss the development of relevant indicators.

11. Briefings and meetings with partners had been held during the session, and Committee members had participated in a wide range of events since the closure of the seventy-first session. The Chair had taken part in a number of events, including a high-level conference in Sofia, in which Mr. Cardona Llorens had also participated. Ms. Aldoseri had taken part in a seminar held in Doha. Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi, along with Mr. Cardona Llorens, had been invited to France to follow up on its implementation of the Committee's concluding observations and Mr. Gastaud had spoken on the topic of children and adolescents in street situations.

12. Ms. Khazova had spoken at a conference on cross-border child protection and family law in Malta. Mr. Nelson had consulted with Samoan officials as part of a successful effort to encourage Samoa to complete the process of ratifying the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure. Mr. Nogueira Neto had participated in consultations organized in Rio de Janeiro by Street Child United, and Ms. Oviedo Fierro had visited Peru and Mexico to help disseminate the recommendations that children should be prohibited from attending or taking part in bullfights.

13. Ms. Muhamad Shariff had attended the Global Child Forum in Kuala Lumpur, and Ms. Winter had been involved in a number of activities, including the launch, held in London, of a global report on access to justice for children. She had also given a keynote speech at a conference in Croatia and, only the previous day, she had chaired a workshop on the issue of corporal punishment. Ms. Sandberg herself had given a presentation at a conference in Oslo. She had also participated in a seminar held in the framework of a European Union project to promote the implementation of article 12 of the Convention in juvenile justice systems, and on behalf of the Committee she had taken part in a consultation on protecting children from bullying and cyberbullying organized by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

14. In its pre-session, to be held over the coming week, the Committee was scheduled to meet with United Nations partners, national human rights institutions and NGOs to discuss the situation of children in six States parties. Discussions would also be held, via Skype, with children from some of those countries. Those activities were crucial to the success of the Committee's efforts to evaluate the reports submitted by States parties.

15. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the report on its seventy-second session.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. After the customary exchange of courtesies, **the Chair** declared closed the seventy-second session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 5.30 p.m.